

OTAKON 1997

get connected



CONVENTION OF OTAKU GENERATION - AUGUST 8-9-10, 1997

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E Bernhard Warg
Karaoke
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LARP



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Otaku \fahn-boi\ n [jp. *otaku* your house; jp. *Otaku* social outcast, sociopath] (14c)

1 : A fan of Japanese animation. **2** : A smelly comics and animation fan. **3** : A sociopathic obsessive-compulsive with intense interest in Japanese subcultural affairs.

otakunize \eevangeliz\ v

1 : to convert others to the love of Japanese animation. **2** : to corrupt the innocent.

otakon \ohtakonn\ n

1 : convention of otaku generation



ippongi bang

Ippongi Bang was born on New Year's Day, 1965 with a Rainbow Destiny. She lived in Washington state as a child, and moved back to Japan for high school. She dropped out of Tamagawa University to join the otaku sub-culture.

Appearing originally in 1980 as the "Cos-Play Queen" in the Japanese fan scene, Bang-san has since crafted quite a reputation for herself. She has been a DJ, an actor, a movie critic, a singer and keyboardist, a traffic cop, and most famously, a manga artist. Known for her rainbow-colored mane of hair, she's pretty hard to miss. She intentionally moved to Kawasaki to live near the motorcycle factory located in that city. She's starred in such live-action films as the second and third *Kekko Kamen* movies and *Exosister*.

Bang-san has joined the Studio Ironcat roster of artists, and Ironcat will be publishing her *Doctor!* and *Bang Ippongi's Campus Diary* mangas this year, and *Super Guts Family* will be coming out in 1998. Gainax has recently published her "Manga Empress of All the Asias" CD-ROM.

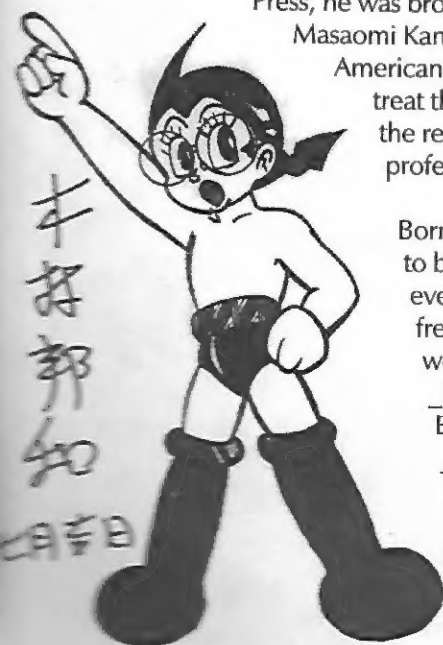
kuni kimura

The manager of a new American manga publisher, Studio Ironcat LLC., Kuni Kimura has worked in the American manga import industry for many years. Upon resignation from Antarctic Press, he was brought in by

Masaomi Kanzaki to run a new

American publishing house that would treat the artists, the publishers, and the reader with respect and professionalism.

Born in Osaka, Kuni felt himself to be destined for the Industry even when he was a child. As a freelance translator, he has worked on AD Vision's *Evangelion* series, *The Elven Bride*, and *Capricorn*. He loves MREs. This may explain why he enjoys a reputation among the Japanese artists as a "hot solid rigid fun-boy".



hiroaki yab

A kick-boxer fighting his way through the industry with his mightiest honey Bang-chan, Hiroaki Yab is a music composer and a writer for various martial arts magazines, including



New Japan Pro Wrestling. He has composed for various movies and video games like the *Back Draft* CD-ROM for the Playstation.

steve bennett

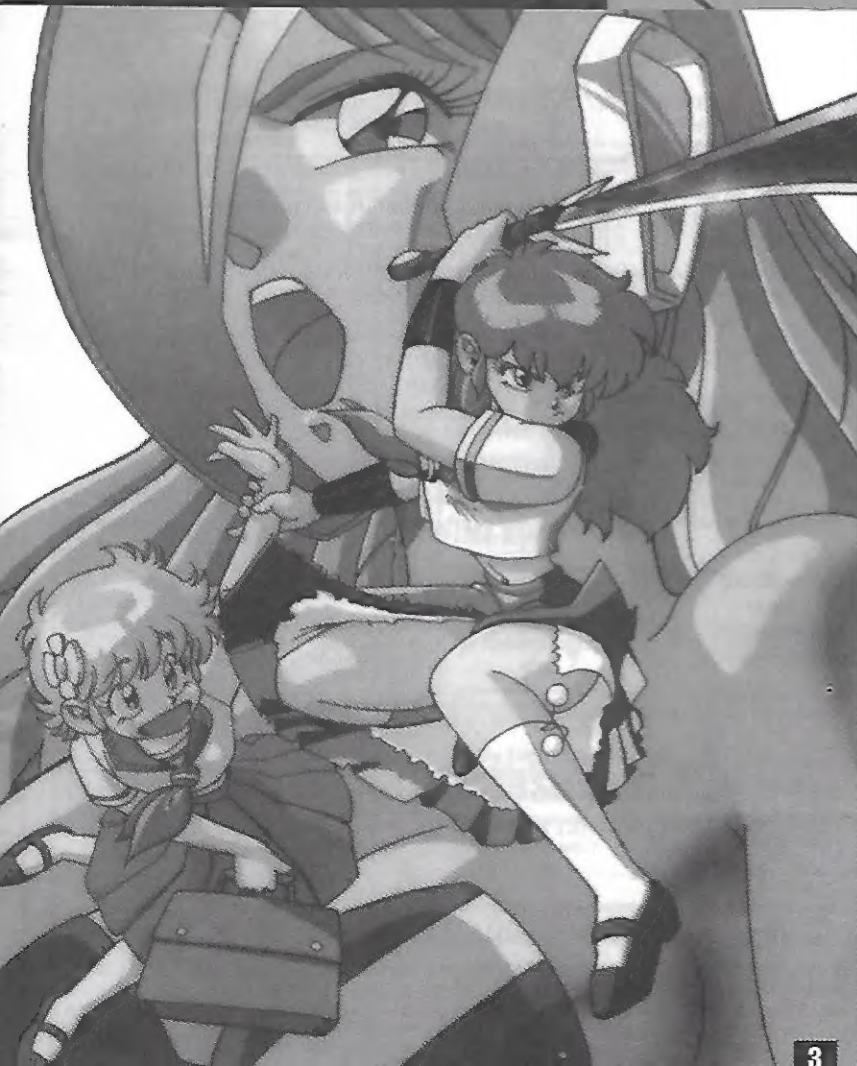
Steve Bennett is a former Japa-nese Animation Artist Veteran. He worked at Studio Aoehyama in Tokyo, Japan, as an animator/in-betweeneron such projects as the *Cat's Eye* and *Urusei Yatsura* TV series, and most notably the first UY movie *Only You*. Steve has since returned to the American fan scene, and has worked with AD Vision, various Antarctic Press projects, and is now working with Masaomi Kanzaki and the Studio Ironcat crowd. Steve is something of a Civil War otaku, and if you're nice he'll tell you some hairy stories of the modern Confederate masses.

PS: please do not consume oxygen in his vicinity: he needs all he can get if he's going to be working with Kuni!



adam warren

Born to a tribe of wild turnips in the early Sixties, Adam grew up immersed in artwork. Or at least we think so: he's very protective about his early history. It is known that he studied at the Joe Kubert School of Cartoon and Graphic Art. He encountered anime in the course of his studies, and was greatly impressed, especially by a certain TV series featuring two very violent Trouble Consultants... In 1989 he and Studio Proteus maven Toren Smith collaborated on an American comic adaptation of Haruka Takachiho's *Dirty Pair*. Adam used a distinctive character design instead of the traditional iconographic designs being used by Sunrise at the time. Although this change was controversial, the series was a hit, and has, at this time, spawned four subsequent miniseries, and as of the fourth installment: *Sim Hell*, Adam took over the writing chores from Toren. Adam introduced to the *Dirty Pair* universe both a strong cyberpunk element, and a deeply ironic sense of humor. With the most recent installment, *Fatal But Not Serious*, the *Dirty Pair* series has turned color comic art, following the successful introduction of Adam's color art in his comic adaptation of *Bubble Gum Crisis* in 1994. Adam Warren is currently working on *GEN-13 bootleg* published by Image comics.



robert dejesus

Robert was born on December 31, in a humble manger behind a hotel, but because that other fellow was born a few days earlier, the news of his virgin birth was placed on page 37, in the Metro section, and thus went unnoticed by the general public. An anime junkie since the days of *Prince Planet* and *Speed Racer*, Bob saw his calling in life as an artist.

His first published work was "The Solutioners", published in *Mangazine* #4. From there he went on to ink for Antarctic Press and also did several short stories for AP, including of course the notorious *Small-Bodied Ninja High School!* In 1994, Bob did the cover cels for Dark Horse's *BubbleGum Crisis: Grand Mal* miniseries by Adam Warren, and he later did inks for Adam's newest *Dirty Pair* series: *Fatal but not Serious*. One of Bob's proudest accomplishments has been his work that appeared in *Chosen Ame*, a dojinsshi introduced into Japan's Comic Market (Komike) by Ken'ichi Sonoda. Bob has now formed his own publishing house, Studio Capsule, which recently released *Anime Nation*—a limited-edition mini-folio of Bob's work.

LET'S GET
SOME POTATO
CHIPS!



c sue shambaugh

Sue began fan translating anime in the 1982-83 time frame, after discovering it during showings at East Coast SF/Fantasy conventions. Since then, she has completed approximately 200 anime and manga translations, and has provided them to literally hundreds of fans worldwide. In 1985, she and her fiancé, Tom Holtz, joined JA/SFA; at this time, they also introduced anime to HopSFA (The Johns Hopkins Science Fiction Association) by means of weekly showings at their rowhouse.

She was one of the first costumers to embark on an anime trend, competing successfully in major SF convention Masquerades. Her rendition of the Imperial Field Marshal Marquis Reinhardt von Lohengramm's uniform (from *Ginga Eiyu Densetsu*) elevated her to Craftsman status, and also gained recognition in Tokuma's magazine, *Animage*. (See the 7/1991 issue!) Other costumes include The Wedding Scene from *Castle Cagliostro*, Emeraldas, Cammy, and Sailor Jupiter. (And there are more in the works...!)

She has traveled to Japan 3 times since 1987, with Tokyo being her favorite destination, and plans another trip there with her husband again soon. Her current projects include a campaign to bring her translations of the "Gin Ei Den" SF novels to America, with the help of an adventurous publisher. After 6 years of purely part-time work, almost all of the main series translations are complete. Her other hobbies indicate a renaissance woman: horseback riding; classical piano; gardening; gourmet cooking; and counted cross-stitch. She is an Electrical Engineer/Computer Scientist by education, with both a BS and an MS from The Johns Hopkins University, and a Systems/Software Engineer with TRW by trade.



steve pearl

Steve Pearl has been fascinated by Japanese Animation since the days of *Speed Racer* but it wasn't until he saw *Robotech* and then the *Macross* movie that he discovered "true" anime and anime fandom. Since then, Steve has been doing all he can to learn about this fascinating medium and to help other fans any way he can. His many projects include founding & coordinating two of NJ's largest anime clubs, "Rutgers Anime" and "Megazone NJ", helping coordinate the "Atlantic Anime Alliance", founding "International Friends of Shizuka Kudo", co-chairing the anime and manga convention, Anime East, and its successor, Far East Expo.

But it's the Internet, that mythical Information SuperHighway, where Steve truly seems to live as he spends what's left of his free time moderating the rec.arts.anime.info newsgroup maintaining the FAQs for most of the other anime/manga related newsgroups, and maintaining several anime related ftp & web sites.

Steve is a frequent guest at Anime & SF conventions and has won the coveted Tezuka award for the past two years for "Most Dedicated Fan". His proudest moment came when Toshio Okada, the Japanese Otaking, declared him to be the American Otaking. More than anything, Steve really, really, really wants to work in the Anime industry!

Visit his Homepage at: <http://www.cybercomm.net/~starbuck>

john staton

John Staton is an up and coming illustrator and manga-influenced comics artist from the DC-College Park area. He has done work for College Park's own Tsunami, and has a number of projects in development limbo with a number of comics publishers....

jeff thompson

Many People don't know who Jeff Thompson is. That's entirely deliberate on his part... he has been known to wear his badge where you can't easily see it, and prides himself on keeping a low profile. If you bought a copy of MD Geist because it sounded really cool on the box, though, he's the one to blame. He is the founder of the East Coast animation magazine *ANIMENOMINOUS!*, did a stint commuting to Manhattan (don't get him started on that), and currently works as the chief designer and production coordinator for The Right Stuf International (what? you've never heard of them either?). When he isn't working under impossible deadlines, he's either screaming at an exploding Quark Xpress or designing someone else's packaging, typically under equally impossible deadlines. If you do happen to spot him, bring him a Pepsi and ask him to tell you a story.

neil nadelman

Neil Nadelman is an animated collection of atomic particles held together by nuclear forces and the occasional roast beef sandwich. When not translating for Central Park Media, he might be found lurking about the streets of Somerville, MA. Or he might be looking over your shoulder as you read this program book (BOO! hahahahaha!). [Ed note: or maybe he's just sneaking bad jokes into his bio.]

Neil got his start in the translating biz by helping CPM subtitle *Project A-ko* (and, no, he was not the one who coined the term 'mangarama'), and later went on to translate such titles as *Gall Force*, *Grave of the Fireflies*, and *Detonator Orgun*. While the bulk of his work has been for CPM, he has also done translations for AnimEigo, Software Sculptors, LA Hero, and Manga Entertainment, and likes to make himself useful to other dubbing and subtitling companies out there.



robert fenelon

The founder of Anime-Zine, the first pro anime zine in the US, Robert Fenelon grew up on 60's Japanese Animation and giant monster shows, studied Japanese history and culture, and stumbled upon subbed anime on obscure UHF channels in the 70's. He was introduced to video-trading in 1981 by the Gamilon Embassy and has been running anime video rooms at SF conventions ever since, emphasizing eclectic, older and lesser known titles. (And no, he was *not* involved in the AnimEast convention committee! Robert does Leader Desslok at masquerades, and was the voice actor for Deslok in the film *_Desslok's Revenge_*.)

Robert lectures about anime and intercultural communications at college campuses. He has appeared on several TV talk shows to talk about anime, and he also has appeared on the occasional Japanese news program discussing American fandom. He makes his daily bread as a consultant in the video distribution industry, and is going back to school for his teacher's certification.



scott simpson

Another actor currently working with Coastal Studios, his anime credits include Koji in MADOX-01, Beast Master in Gaiarth I, minor roles in Bubble Gum Crash, as well as Keiichi in Oh My Goddess!, playing opposite his wife, Juliet Cesario. Also a traditional actor, Scott's film and television credits include Southern Cross (pilot), Time Piece, and A Kiss So Deadly, as well as in many theatrical productions.



juliet cesario

Juliet is the divine voice of Belldandy in the English version of Oh My Goddess!. She is a professional actress when she's not doing voices for anime, appearing in American Gothic, Quid Pro Quo, Cannibal Vampire Schoolgirls(!), Dare to Love, Star Trek: Next Generation, Days of Our Lives, as well as in many theatrical productions. Her anime roles include: Alfin in Crusher Joe, Iris in AD Police Files, minor parts in Bubble Gum Crash and of course Belldandy in Oh My Goddess!

lorraine savage

Lorraine Savage has been active in anime fandom and has attended conventions from one coast to the other for the past 12 years (which explains why she's always frazzled!). Lorraine has organized one of the most respected international fan clubs, Anime Hasshin, and published the 3-time award winning newsletter, The Rose, for the past 10 years. The establishment of a website at www.tiac.net/users/hasshin (as well as the replacement of her old 386 with a new P166 home computer) firmly placed Anime Hasshin in the 1990s! Lorraine has been a guest speaker at numerous cons and has taught classes in Katakana. Other diversions that keep Lorraine off the streets at night are a devotion to Babylon 5, Monty Python, Roger Zelazny novels, vampire games, and fantasy needlepoint.

apollo smile

Apollo Smile, "The Live Action Anime Girl" struck the pop world in 1991 with a rockin self titled album and now she takes U.S. anime fandom to a new level by using her vocal, karate, and performance talents to help promote anime, manga, US comics, and more to fans everywhere with a groovy live action show. With voice acting credits including Central Park Media's "Battle Arena Toshinden", the upcoming "Voltage Fighter: Gowcaizer", her own original manga series, and songs in both English and Japanese, Apollo Smile is the original U.S. "seiyuu".



matt lunsford

Matt Lunsford was first exposed to anime like many of us: Afternoon TV, from such shows as Battle of the Planets, and later rekindled by shows like Macross: Do you remember Love? Matt's began his education in the High School of Art and Design, and later in the School of Visual Arts. During that period, he lent his talent to various projects, ranging from political illustration to T-shirt designs.

Matt's pursuits have led him to illustrate four issues of Ninja High School, and he is currently working with USMC on the La Blue Girl Comic Series. He may also be assigned to illustrate USMC's upcoming Urotsukidoji comic as well. His past project, Dream Weavers, is still available from Golden Realm Unlimited by request.

takao nakano

Born in Osaka and a drop-out from Hosei University (first Okada, and now this guy - is this some kind of Japanese otaku tradition?), Takao Nakano now works in the live-action movie industry. He writes and directs what he calls "cat fight" pornography



reiji kato

A manga artist, Kato has drawn biographical mangas of Beethoven, various H fight mangas such as "Penis Man", "Yakuza Man", "Toilet Man" etc, and an incomplete series known as "Mecha". He collects trading cards as a hobby but his wallet is currently suffering from the weak yen.



events

4th annual otakon music video contest

**showings according to schedule, winner
announced at the award ceremony**

Music and animation in edited juxtaposition - the simplest of creative activities, and yet quite powerful. A bastion of pure amateurism, anime music videos are a unique phenomenon. In keeping with such an egalitarian art, Otakon's Music Video Contest is, as it was in the past, judged popularly by the membership of the convention. Don't forget your ballot, and try to see either the Friday or Saturday music video showings.

artists' alley

Around a cluster of empty tables in the halls of the convention has grown a peculiar tradition. Artists, modelers, and people with generally neat stuff to do will sit down, get out the old tools, and do creative stuff for the edification of the curious masses.



ippongi bang concert

saturday 9:30pm

OTAKON's 1997 Guest of Honor is a musical soul, and we've given her the Main Events room for a Saturday night concert to get you all in that dancing mood. The Rainbow-haired One is here, keyboard in hand, to do that thing that she does.

masquerade and costume contest

saturday 7:00pm

Masqueraders, cosplay, and skits, oh my! In the spirit of that ancient tradition of American fandom, OTAKON's masquerade exists to allow costumers to demonstrate their work. In addition, this year, Otakon's master of ceremonies, Don Jones, will be opening up a cosplay section for the initiates of the Japanese tradition of skit performance. *You must register for the Masquerade at the OPS/Information desk by Saturday afternoon.*



dealers' room

friday 4:00pm - 8:00pm

saturday 10:00am - 6:00pm

sunday 10:00am - 2:00pm

music video workshop:

The amateur music video seems to be a phenomenon unique to anime fandom. It is a constructive deconstructive act of marvelous potential. How can you, the average otaku, produce music videos capable of making trained professionals cry in envy? Find out, fanboy!

modelling workshop

A free-form workshop dedicated to the careful and painstaking abuse of small pieces of plastic, resin, and assorted materials so that marvelous little statues are formed. IE, modelling.

cosplay workshop

The experts are here to show you the basics (and intermediates, and if you're really lucky, some of the the advanceds) of Cosplay.

art show and auction

friday 6pm-9pm, saturday 10am-6pm,

sunday 10am-12pm, auction sunday 1:00pm

Artists from all branches of fandom will be hanging their work to be appreciated, and maybe bid on for eventual sale. This is your chance to become a patron of the arts just like the Rockefellers. Well, as much like the Rockefellers as a fanboy that isn't worth hundreds of millions of dollars can be.

Fushigi Yuugi marathon

saturday 9am-3am

For those of you who won't have the opportunity anywhere else, watch all 52 episodes of Fushigi Yuugi in this marathon viewing event. A description of Fushigi Yuugi is provided in the anime video program section.



dance

saturday 10:30pm

White men might not jump, but can otaku dance? The Don Jones One-Man Orchestra is doing the disk-jockey thing, and the hotel is cracking open a wet bar for the non-minors among the membership. Please, folks, try to remember: Maryland law requires a class III firearms license for the possession and use of polyester leisure suits in the county of Baltimore. "Stayin' alive! Ooh ooh ooh..."



video gaming + tournaments

Friday 5PM-12AM

Saturday 10AM-12AM

Sunday 10AM-2PM

A fan convention couldn't be the same without an equipment-heavy video gaming room! There'll be plenty of gaming stations and a wide array of import and anime-themed video games like Tobal 2, Street Fighter EX, Dragonball GT and more. Several tournaments will be conducted throughout the weekend, courtesy of Old School Producitons, and the gaming should be as frantic as usual.



live-action roleplaying

The LARP is back again. For those invenerate role-players determined to do the anime thing in real time, this here is the place to be. Check in with the organizers and reserve your place in the best little RPG in Baltimore.

karaoke

friday 9:00pm

Yes, we've let Bernhard loose with the audio equipment again. Mad karaoke singers stalk the dark night in search of fresh prey. That horrible noise you're hearing right now is your only warning. Run now, before it's too late!

modelling contest

displayed during the art show. winner announced at the award ceremony

Probably the most un-advertised part of the convention, the modelling contest still managed to collect some exquisite pieces of modelling. In the past, we've had everything from Patlabor light dioramas to beautiful anime resin character kits, so take the time to stop by and appreciate the excellent work your fellow otaku have done. **Information and registration forms for interested contestants are available at the OPS/Information desk. Judging will be Saturday afternoon by 4PM, with the winners to be announced at the Award Ceremony later that evening.**

first annual otakon club summit

friday 9:00pm

Otaku Sapiens is a gregarious animal like any other primate, and no convention is complete without some discussion between the organizations into which fanboys assemble. Fran groups from Florida to Maine and from Delaware to Illinois are coming to discuss issues ranging from fansub distribution ethics to organizational principles. No otaku is an island, now while there is more than one of us.

cel-painting workshops

saturday 4:00pm and sunday 11:30am

A limited-participant workshop series, Cel Painting is a hands-on instructional on how to paint cels. Materials cost for this one, folks, so there's a nominal fee to cover paint and other consumables.

con suite

Friday 4PM-12AM

Saturday 10AM-12AM

Sunday 10AM-2PM

The con hospitality suite is a great place to strike up a brief but torrid affair with a plateful of Cheetos or make an assignation with a cup of root beer. Either way, you can socialize with the other OTAKON members at the trough.



award ceremony

saturday 9:00pm

Awards will be announced for the Music Video Contest, Modelling Contest, Masquerade, and others in this brief (we hope) and tasteful (yeah, right) ceremony. No Totalitarian Torchlight Rally this time, we promise! Who will walk away with a coveted-by-all-otaku Hiroko?



mystery anime theatre 3000

midnight friday

Yes, it's copyright violation time again here at OTAKON, as the Not-Ready-For-Professionalism Players present their own version of that pop cultural icon that shall not be named for pseudo-legal reasons. Some poor unassuming anime is going to get slaughtered and abused tonight, and it isn't going to be pretty.

fansubtitling workshop

friday 4:30pm

The ultimate expression of American otakudom, the font of controversy and the pinnacle of egotism, fansubtitling is both our hope and our despair made manifest. It's also a great whopping lot of work. Modern anime fandom is based on the fansubtitler: come on down and see how it's done.



breaking into the anime industry, and other felonies

So what is the best technique for getting yourself published? Does it involve breaking and entering, or will a little judicious blackmail suffice?

filk

A form of sung music derived from a typo and a great heaping bowl ofchutzpah. It is the natural sound of the human voice. The technique involves working on a preexisting piece of music and using the melody and arrangement to create your own version. When John Williams did this with "The Planets", for the Star Wars soundtrack, he was acclaimed. When fans do it, there are subdued mutterings of "plagiarism!" and "unoriginal!". Such is the injustice of life. For the truly talented and ambitious, you can dodge these slings and arrows of brutish critics, and write your own arrangements as well. Then they'll merely denounce you as a talentless hack.

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studio ironcat

The saviors of American manga? Damn if we know, they're announcing themselves this weekend. Come on down and see if they show any signs of messiah-hood.

bang no panel

Bow down before the Manga Empress of All the Asias, otaku scum! Yes, it's Ippongi Bang, our Japanese Guest of Honor for 1997. She sings, she does manga, she acts. Is there anything she doesn't do?

what sensitive side? fan fiction

It's a male, male world out there in Anime Fandom. Why is it that everyone assumes "otaku" is masculine? Are machine-gun-wielding sailor-suited girls "positive role models" for female fans?

It is a fan activity as old as Kirk/Spock "slash" fiction. It has its own newsgroup, rec.arts.anime.creative. What is fanfic?



disney still sucks

Yes, folks, it's "Lawyer Baiting Theatre" as We the Convention return for a second year of maligning the good name of the House of Mouse. They're holding Ghibli Studios hostage: what could their demands possibly be? You can be sure it involves great heaping piles of money in any case.

fansub wars

It used to be that a bright and shining line was drawn across the cosmos, and on the one side stood the otaku, who told the newbie: "Chile, this here is our Bright and Shining Line. On this side is the angels. On that side lies pirates, scum, and profiteers. Do not cross." But the newbies poured in like the tide, eroding the line and all else besides. The bright and shining line is no more. What can be done?

masquerade craftsmanship

Show up if you want to be in the Masquerade this year. Oh, yeah, you also have to register before the panel for a slot in the show - drop in on Ops and sign up!

larp introduction

The LARP is back again. For those invenerate role-players determined to do the anime thing in real time, this here is the place to be. Check in with the organizers and reserve your place in the best little RPG in Baltimore.



the year that was: 1996-1997

Evangelion appeared on these shores. An avalanche of Escaflowne tapes threatened to bury under fandom. The fansubtitling community threatened to combust in acrimony. Viz changed a policy or two. What was your year in fandom like?



make big money in comics

...and other examples of wishful thinking in the American manga industry. The artists are here. The great heaping piles of filthy lucre are over there. How does one get one set to the other without mountain-moving exertions of Aeugean Stables proportions?



obscure anime

The woods are deep, and full of mysterious old shows that nobody seems to ever talk about. For many of these shows, their obscurity is definitely deserved. Are there any shows lost in the lumpish crowds that deserve a closer look?

jackie chan love fest

Jackie was hot stuff last year. Was his popularity just another entry in the cyclical love-hate relationship America has with Hong Kong film? Should the otaku give a shit what the mainstream think?

best of the best, worst of the worst

...Tackiest of the Tackiest? Some shows are just so good that you find yourself running out into the street and tackling random strangers and telling them the good news. Some shows are so damn bad that even a ten-beer drunk with a Pangalactic Gargleblaster chaser can't make them look good. What are the true extremes in anime?

wherefore art thou j.a.i.l.e.d.?

Was it just a bluff? Why haven't we heard from the Barred Ones since that bust in NYC? What are we going to do about piracy, anyways?

flashback 1987

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times... wait, no, that was the French Revolution. It was a time of dust and great heat: the fields shriveled into great dunes of blowing sand... er, no, that was the Dustbowl Thirties. Well, hell, most of you were there: what exactly *was* special about 1987?

masquerade tips and tricks

The Donmeister is here to give you the 411 on the costuming scene at Otakon. Useful for those that don't want to embarrass yourselves on your first trip down the catwalk.



where have all the manga gone?

AP is shutting down most of its titles. The direct-sales market doesn't seem to be showing any new signs of revival. The only sign of change is Mixx Productions. What's up with manga in America?



feedback

Tell us what you liked, didn't like, or thought you could improve about the con. As if we cared.



baka na!

Ohboyohboyohboy, it's stupid otaku tricks time here at Game Show Central! The live programming staff have come up with six rounds of the most demeaning, obnoxious stunts their evil little minds could conceive of, all to torment and abuse you, the gaming membership. Be properly appreciative, worms!

adam warren

He's broken into the mainstream with work on Teen Titans and Gen13 Bootleg. Is he still doing anime-themed material? Where is he going next?

seiyuu in america

Dubbing is making something of a comeback within the American anime industry. What is the state of the art? Is it Art?



you say yamato, i say neo-fascist militarism... from space!

Symbol and ship and rollicking great adventure: this was Yamato. Why has it remained such a standard for so long?

dragons, godzilla, t-rex: fact/myth?

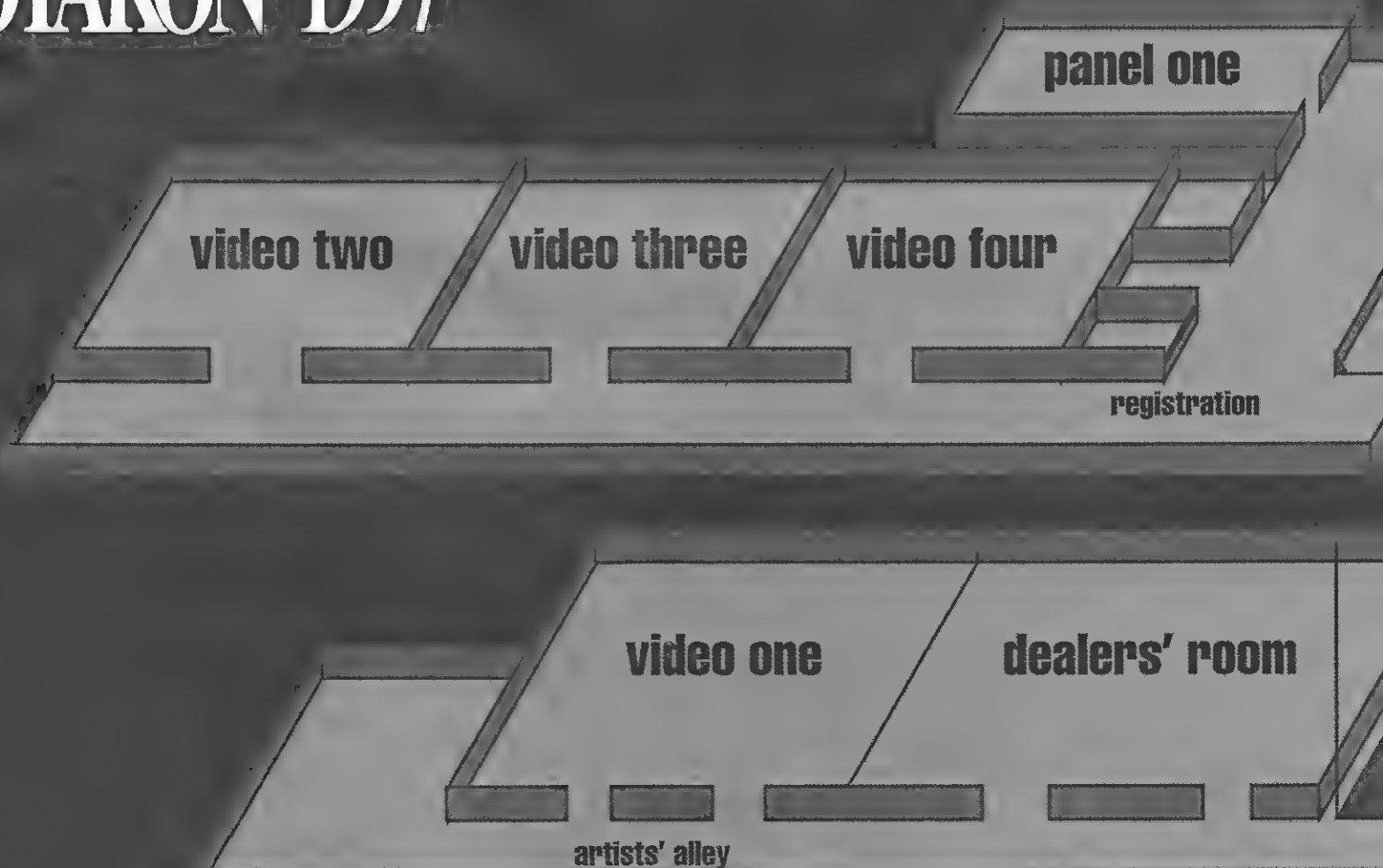
Tom Holtz has some crazed ideas about large lizards and myth, history, and popular culture. Sounds dreadful, but he's got a good track record.



mitsukeru

Just what the hotel needed: a horde of game show contestants rampaging about the Hunt Valley Marriott on the hunt for various implements of fannish destruction. Hey, who doesn't like a little scavenging?

OTAKON 1997



legend of the galactic heroes

On their whims hand the fate of worlds, by their wishes whole civilizations are made as naught. They stride this vasty stage like bright and shining gods, gaming for the cosmos that is their right inheritance. They are more than bigger than life: they are bigger than fiction.

sasai na?

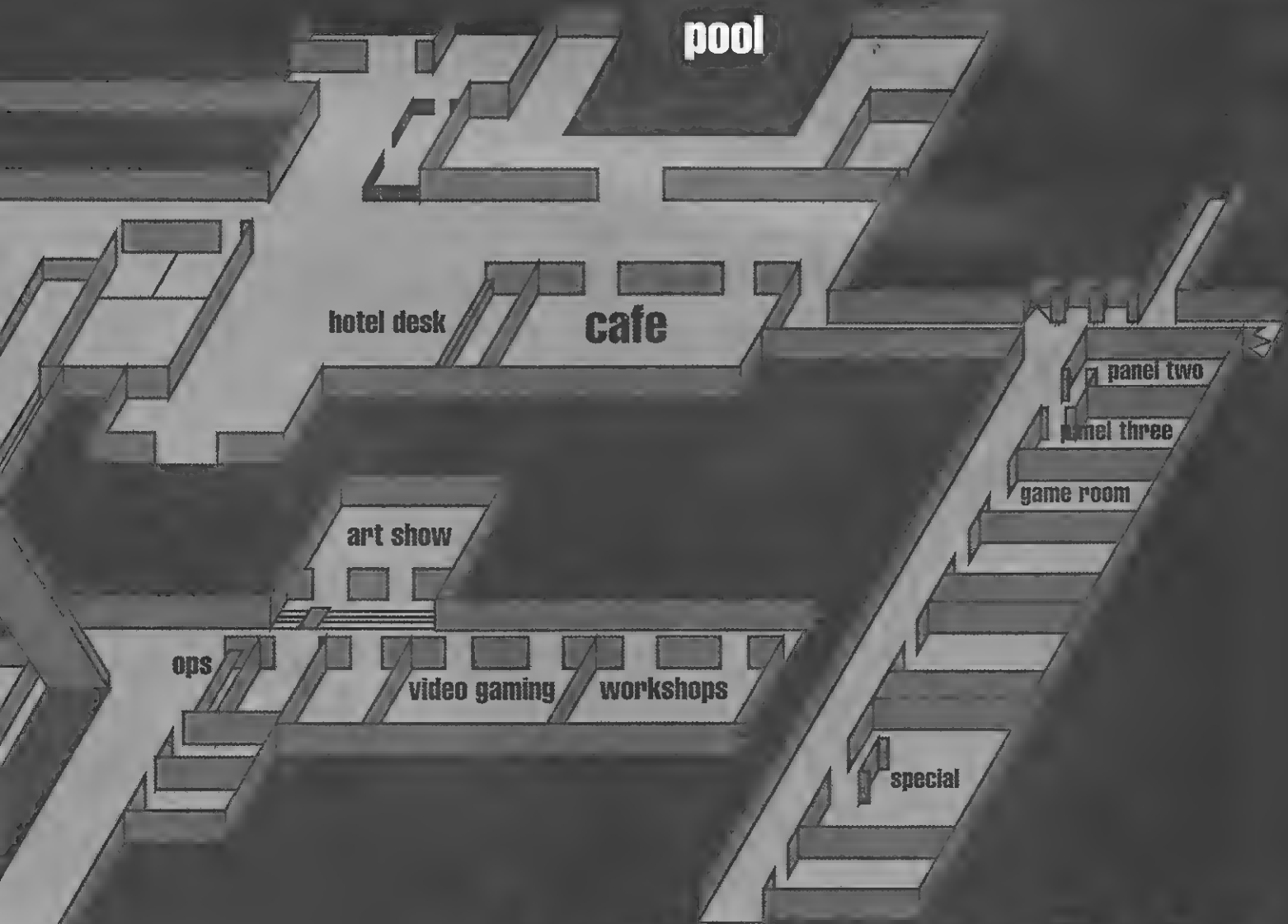
It's interactive trivia time! Three contestants, five very different rounds, and a lot of trivia adds up to a pretty complex game show.

dub yer own

It's harder than you think: walk a mile in a voice actor's shoes.

the u.s. anime industry

Good god things have come a long way since AnimEigo came out with *Metal Skin Panic: MADDOX-01* in 1989. Companies have come and companies have gone. Things have got a lot more capital-intensive for the startup company, and last year was a time of shake-out and consolidation. Are the boom years back yet, or are the companies overproducing themselves into oblivion?



marriott's hunt valley inn

video



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new peacock king

Kujaku: Oh, a minor Buddhist god reincarnated as a young monk fights demons in the modern world. Beyond that, your guess is as good as ours.

city hunter: the secret service

If you're desperate and need a job done, write "XYZ" on the bulletin board at Shinjuku Station. That is a signal that you want to hire City Hunter, an agency consisting of Ryo Saeba and Kaori Makamura. Ryo is calm, cool, and an amazingly accurate shot. He is also the biggest lech since Ataru Moroboshi. Kaori is the daughter of Ryo's deceased partner and runs the business side of City Hunter. She is also the only woman who Ryo hasn't made a pass at. The jobs have ranged from being a bodyguard (usually a pretty girl :)) to virtual espionage. Kaori has kept Ryo's frequent sukebe tendencies in check with an 50,000 kg mallet. :)) This is an action-adventure with some comedy elements. The Secret Service is a TV special.

martian successor nadesico

NERGAL

NERGAL has crushed the Mars rebellion after a long and bloody war, and the warship Nadesico has been dispatched as part of an effort to maintain the peace around that ravaged world. Unfortunately the mixed crew is a collection of misfits, oddballs, and utaku. It'll take all of the discipline the Captain can muster to keep her ship from becoming the disgrace of the fleet.



countdown (nc-17)

This anthology of erotica from SoftCel is based on the manga of the same name, published by Eros Comics. There are two segments, *Alimony Hunter*, and *Seek*. Not for children.

yu yu hakusho

Beginning with one heck of a bang, Yu Yu Hakusho starts by killing its protagonist off. Luckily for the plot, this show believes in an extensive afterlife in the eastern Buddhist tradition complete with Enna, the king of Hell. Yuusuke, the deceased hero, must prove that he is worthy of a second chance in the service of Enna's son, left in charge of Hell by his absent parent.

ushio and tora

Ushio accidentally released the demon locked within the temple that had been left to him along with a ceremonial spear. Now the spear is the only thing keeping the demon, Tora, from devouring Ushio and everyone around him. As long as he holds the spear, Ushio is the master. That can be pretty useful when it seems as if the whole world is full of spirits, demons and malign magical beasts out for human blood.

mobile police patlabor: the new files

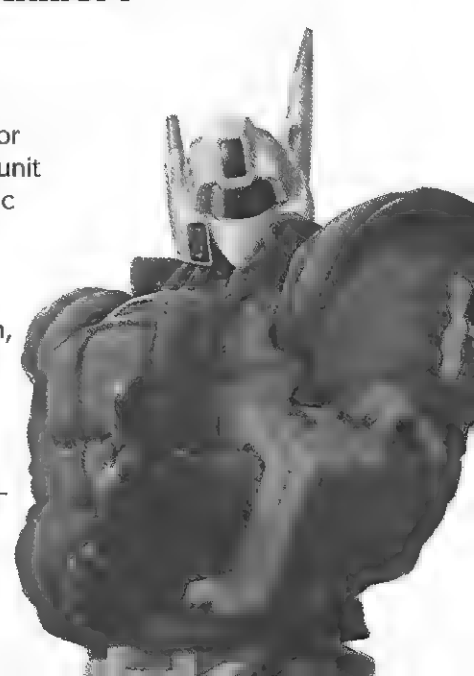
The SV2 is the Tokyo Police Department's answer to Labor crime, a mechanized SWAT unit equipped with anthropomorphic vehicles. Administratively exiled to the "New Lands" south of Tokyo, SV2 suffers from a destructive reputation, and the isolation of professional life in the middle of nowhere. The men and women of SV2 grapple with terrorists, dangerous corporations, and the difficulty of ordering takeout for dozens of people stuck in the middle of Tokyo Bay.

3x3 eyes II

The sleeper does not wake... Pa-bo is a normal schoolgirl - but only as long as her occult handlers keep her within their webs of quiet lies and reinforcing illusion. The facade is shattered when a vagabond named Yakumo arrives in search of his bond-mistress. A nest of monsters thus stirred should have killed any man - and so he was. But it seems that this vagabond doesn't take to the murdered state, at least not for long...

shadow skill

Slavery is a manacled state of affairs, and the hands of the enslaved belong not to the slave. Of the manipulative appendages, only the dumb feet belong to those that are owned. Once, a generation of enslaved women learned this wisdom, and crafted from it a release. The Shadow Skill, a martial art born of shackled hands and female strengths, began as a weapon of the oppressed. Gao is an orphan raised by a Shadow Skill adept who has instructed him in this art, which now is taught much like any other art of violence elsewhere. What is this "Skill" if it can be put to the uses of tyrants?





wings of honneamise

Another world, another war, but still the same people and the same problem. Shiro is naturally a slob and a sleepy-eyed slacker, doing only what it takes to continue and to earn his daily bread. He fell into the Royal Space Force because the RSF, like himself, seemed to do nothing. But even military forces that do not fight might have some purpose beyond the waste, and time heals all lack of ambition. Perhaps all that Shiro was missing was purpose. But what purpose?

five star stories

A very distilled Kadokawa film based on a long-running manga series, Five Star Stories explores a world of bio-engineered female piloting computers and aristocratic mecha pilots.

lupin III: die nostradamus!

Lupin and his cohorts have become ensnared in a conspiracy swirling around the lost prophecies of Nostradamus, a millennial cult, and an American presidential candidate of prodigious wealth.

birdie the mighty

Standard-issue Jr. High student Tsutomu was minding his own business when he was clobbered by a alien police officer in a heck of a hurry. This space cop, feeling rather guilty for mortally wounding a random innocent, decides to save him by doing that old 'Ultraman' merger thing. Now Tsutomu shares a body with the alien Fed, a scantily-clad female named Birdy Alira Epsilon.

maze

Maze is dedicated to defending the Babylon Kingdom from the usual forces of destruction. Unfortunately, she's been cursed with a duality of personality and gender. While the male Maze is distracted by new-found hormonal disturbance, the female Maze is besieged by her masculine admirers. Even worse, the reigning Prince (Princess?) of Babylon is Mil, a fully functional hemophrodite, who can appreciate Maze in either mood, thank you very much.

alien from darkness (nc-17)

More tentacle-spooge from the pandering people at Kitty, Alien in the Darkness is apparently an Alien knockoff with salacious content. Not for children (I wouldn't go so far as to say that it was appropriate for adults either).

fast food freedom fighters

Undoubtedly one of the best fan-parodies ever made, 4F features the antics of the Granola Gurls and their fight to fend off the Fast Food Freedom Fighters. When Vena (Played by C-ko) is kidnapped by the 4F, Mackie (Played by A-ko) must team up class rival Lena (Played by B-ko) to rescue her.

blackjack

The doctor is unlicensed, deformed and gloomy. But this is of little importance to the patient when all other solutions have failed and every other avenue exhausted. Cold and quietly bitter, Blackjack is a surgeon for hire to the highest bidder. Like a less paranoid X-Files, Black Jack is measured, dark, and oddly humanistic.



child's toy

All Sana wants to do is work on her career as a child-actor and study in a peaceful classroom, but her elementary school has been terrorized by a gang of male brats led by her fellow child-actor, Hayama Akito, who is blackmailing the teachers. The other girls have turned to Sana to protect them against the brats. But the other girls haven't realized that child-actors are, by definition, insane.

detective conan

A virtual reality computer program has brought back the spirit of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who is deposited in the mind of a young boy. Together, the VR "ghost" and his host set out to solve mysteries.

dirty pair: project e.d.e.n.

A high point in late 80's animation, this is arguably the best of the Dirty Pair animes. Kinetic, bloody, unhesitatingly violent, Project Eden embodies the essential bubble-headed pessimism of DP. The 'Pair is, here, personal embodiments of entropy and chaos, life's answer to the profusion of life, as it were. Project Eden is also the most sexist of the DP animes, and many feminist-oriented fans have denounced the sudden turn from independence and self-reliance in the prior DP animes to more stereotypically Japanese attitudes towards strong women.

otaku no video

1982 + 1985

The original sharply optimistic reconstruction of Japanese fandom by the men who found success through the hobby, the Gainax crew! Starry-eyed and enthusiastic even in its most blackly satiric moments, this describes the descent of a callow, innocent young soul into the shadowy domain of the otaku, and his determination to bring the Otaku tribe to greatness. An OAV that can be seen as either a cautionary tale of seduction and depravity, or a brassy call to arms for fandom, Otaku no Video inspired this convention. To become Otaking is the secret ambition of all true otaku, and to bring the Otakunization is the grand ideal of all fannish dreamers!

mahou tsukai tai!

Earth has been invaded by a mechanical race of neglectful conquerors. Although the invaders destroy anything thrown against them, they are otherwise satisfied with the freedom to wander at will among humanity. A cabal of young witches from a Japanese school have discovered what they believe is the tool to free mankind from the invaders—magic, of course!

lupin III tv

The thieving ones returned in 1977 with a new TV series, more light-hearted than the violent first series (1971-2). Sometimes known as "the Red Coat Lupin", this second series probably represented the peak of Lupin III's popularity.

grey: digital target

All Grey knows is the mercenary life, sent out on suicide missions by the unseen rulers of his world. For each success he is moved closer to the time when he can join the citizens of the city. But the soldiers are being sent out to fight each other, and there is no other enemy, and the city and the world is run by an insane god...

visionary (nc-17)

A young hacker, puttering around in the usual sexually frustrated way performs an accidental summoning of a robot from the future named Doreimon. But this isn't the usual run of nuclear-powered robotic cats, folks. More perversion from U-Jin. Not for children.

shamanic princess

Tiara has been dispatched from the Guardian World to this one to retrieve a stolen totem, a lost symbol, known as Yold's Seal. In the dark hours the search begins among the peaked slate roofs of some nameless European town, where the prize lies guarded by once-trusted once-friends. But the prize is not what it seems, and the goal is never as clear as it was when first sought, when wizards' war plays across the stages of the night.

gatchaman'94

An OAV remake of the classic series from the people at Madhouse, this is a peculiar exercise. The old 70's kitsch elements have been replaced by the characteristic shiny photorealistic design style that Madhouse is known for.





slayers

All Lina has ever wanted from life are three things: fame, more money than she could ever spend, and the right to demolish any particular plot of ground she happens to be standing on. She's got the inside track on at least two of the three for one reason: she's the most powerful and feared sorceress in her part of the world.

fairy princess ren

Featuring Indiana Jones wannabes, secretive corporations, mysterious ancient legends about brand new arcologies, fairies on quest, technologically unsound amusement rides, rampaging fire department ninjas, and an endless supply of statuesque redheads, *Fairy Princess Ren* is way too busy for it's own good. The best way to describe it is "comedy of noncommunication". Characters talk at, through, and around each other, but no-one seems to be listening. Half of the characters' chatter is indecipherable, not that it matters: everyone just hears what they want to hear anyway. Each character seems to live in his or her own little world, impervious to external influence. This OAV series is rumored to have driven three translators insane.

fushigi yuugi

Mika Yuuki is the Suzaku no Miko, and her destiny is calling. She's been sucked into an alternate world where being the Suzaku no Miko elicits something more than blank stares. Animated in an impressive shoujo style, this fantasy has all the standards: cross-dressing, quests, mystic birthmarks, and ditzy heroines.



yawara!: a fashionable judo girl

Yawara would prefer to be a normal, ditzy schoolgirl like every other muffinbrained shoujo in Tokyo. Alas, she possesses both great physical talent, and a deranged grandfather determined to maintain the family's tradition of judo championship. Will a lifetime of training and sheer animal inclination have its way? The Barcelona Olympics await the answer.

voltron: hell-bent for leather

Shitemasu's journeyman work, *Hell Bent for Leather* solidified their cynical, scatological approach to fan parody that has made them a name to swear by (and swear by...). Footage from several episodes of the hoary old Go Lion series that was disastrously turned into Voltron: Defender of the Universe were spliced together into this tale of depravity, nymphomania, cheesy combat logic, and demented English Professors. See! the repeated homophobic references to Club Squish! Hear! endless slurs against Princess Princess's virtue! Feel! the dirt stupid nature of this well-loved show from our childhood!

gundam: the 08th ms team

The One-Year War was a large conflict, and contained many stories. This is the story of a Mobile Suit Assault Team fighting in the steaming jungle and swamps of Southeast Asia. Cursed with a green lieutenant, the 8th MS Team is stuck with the nasty job of clearing Zion resistance in a backdrop war theatre while other "Newtype" units enjoy the glory jobs.

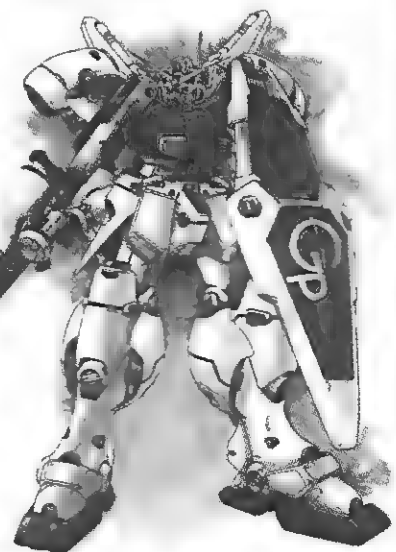
bastard!

This formidable sword and sorcery story hails from the deepest, darkest, most hormone-drenched depths of Japanese boys' comics. *Bastard!* features Dark Schneider, a black-hearted sorcerer/warrior who has been defeated and driven into the body of a callow young boy, Luce. Now he can only be released from his imprisonment by the kiss of a virgin. When he is, destruction is bound to follow. This show is distinctive in it's innovative, if somewhat silly use of various heavy metal bands' names as spells or country-names.



bad american dubbing

American dubbing has its charms. Honest! Well, OK, verbal diarrhea pretty well describes it, if you ask me. Corn Pone Film did all of us the dubious service of collecting the worst and most heinous examples of wretched dubbing and condensing it into three half-hours of excruciating blather. This the third installment, is easily the best of the blithering bunch. It's really, really BAD.





super atragon

The poles melting, United Nations fleets obliterated by crowds of nasties emerging from cracks in the world, invasion from Beneath the Earth! Not a good week for mankind... but Never Fear! The same people that bring you Irrelevant Capitalized Phrases and World-Saving Cliches have an ace up their collective sleeves... the WWII secret weapon Too Terrible to use: the underwater battleship Atragon! But watch out for those Flying Frisbies of Doom! They can be murder on a good manicure, or your standard battleship.

maison ikkoku

This contemporary romantic comedy is based on a manga by Rumiko Takahashi. Yuusaku Godai lives in battered old Ikkoku-kan, suffering from the ignominy of being a ronin [ronin are students that failed to be accepted to a college in their first attempt at the entrance exams - Ed.]. Godai was tottering on the edge, harassed by the pressures of poverty, tests, and annoying neighbors. Then the new building manager arrived: a tall, mature woman with long, beautiful black hair and an open, friendly nature. Perhaps Ikkoku-kan isn't so awful after all.

tokyo revelation

This Manga Entertainment title is a sneak premiere - so secret, they wouldn't even tell us what it was about.

vision of escaflowne

The tarot is an instrument of choice as well as fate. In a feudal alterity of steel mecha and medieval politics wanders Hitomi, an amateur tarot reader and Japanese schoolgirl. Packed with more ideas than a P.K. Dick novel, Escaflowne is an audiovisual dervish of a show, featuring BGM by the sainted Yohko Kanno and Shouji Kawamori's striking direction.

ogenki clinic (nc17)

The nurses of Ogenki clinic are here to help you with your marital problems. Whether it's lesbian couples with phallogentric issues, or husbands unable to keep up with eager wives, they have the solution. Absolutely not for children.



final fantasy

A four-OAV in the Final Fantasy RPG spirit, this show doesn't really resemble any of the video games, being a loose-limbed adventure of vaguely Ghibli dimensions with strong Chinese design elements. Moments of pure wonder redeem the otherwise workmanlike plot, leaving something that is one part marvel, and three parts pedestrian.

captain harlock

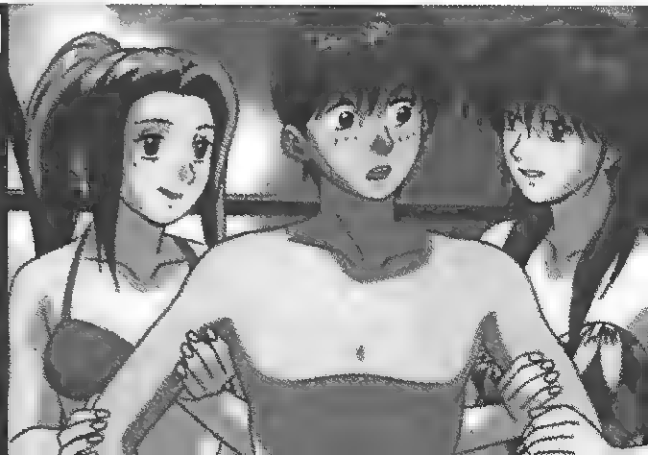
The pirate cares not for times or places - he stands outside of the standards by which the common world judges. Harlock is a symbol of all that his Earth has lost - initiative, honor, respect, curiosity. When the world is reduced to a petty cramped little place, then those who would be large are compelled to go outside of that world.

yotoden

Nobunaga Oda was a rather odious tyrant who, nonetheless, united Japan. But was he a man? This little alternative history posits--rather unoriginally--that Oda was both a demon, and the pawn of demonic forces intent on the usual reaking-the-fabric-of-reality-and-letting-in-the-cthuloid-monsters plot. The demons are exterminating the ninja clans, in order to cement their hold. Three stalwart ninja hero-types are determined to stop the demons, with their magic blades and their spirit. But who made those blades in the first place, and to what purpose?

shin kimagure orange road

Graduation has come, and Kyouzuke and Ayukawa are celebrating his winning the university photography award. Suddenly, an older Kyouzuke pops out of plot-space to warn his younger self of "cars! look out for cars!" like some half-baked Ancient Mariner. Suddenly Kyouzuke is in his future, working as a combat photographer in Bosnia [snort! - Ed.]. Kasuga-kun is thrown billiards-style through the stations of his life, at random. How can he get back to the moment in which he was living?



ghost in the shell

Mamoru Oshii's expected intellectualism and pensive dream logic melds strangely with the cyberpunk sensibility and sensuality of a Masamune Shirow setting. Ghost becomes a peculiar mix of cerebral and the flesh. Fear of fading humanity in the cyborged human has long been a staple of Japanese SF. What Oshii brings to it is a quiet gravitas lacking in Ghost's predecessors.

daicon III and IV

Before there was Gainax, there was Daicon Film. Green young animators-in-training, shanghaied from their day jobs on the studio lines, banded together under the leadership of ambitious Big Fen Hideki Anno and Toshio Okada to produce their own animation. The absolute state-of-the-art in 1983, the Daicon IV trailer still possesses the ability to knock yer socks off.



fam and iri: ruin explorers

The world is full of ruined remnants of civilization, and a young person with courage and luck might do very well in excavating the wrecks of the past for profit in the present. Two young sort-of magic users have set out to search the wastelands for "the ultimate power" among other things. Now, if they can just avoid killing themselves first...

ranma 1/2

It's Ranma, ferchristsakes! You know, hot water/cold water, genderbending, silly martial arts and sweeping pandas? We know it's been a while, but y'all have to have seen this one at one time or another...

orchid emblem (nc-17)

Rei-Lan the ex-DEA agent turned wrestling star enters in conflict with her ex-lover Tojo, a "drug-dealing mobster". The mind boggles. Not for children.



X

From the flames of her immolation his mother speaks: return to Tokyo! Meet your destiny! And so Kamui went, back to Kotori, whom he had once promised to protect forever, back to her brother, who extracted the promise, back to the plotting capital. Tokyo will be a battlefield, it seems, and two psychic armies are vying to recruit Kamui, the salvation or destruction of the Earth.

tatoon master

Hibio's idiot mother promised him in marriage to a daughter of the magical Tatoon tribe so that she could make an ethnological study of the tribe. Now a weepy gaijin witch has shown up in Japan, insisting that she and Hibio are married. Whenever the misogynistic Hibio tries to send his new "wife" Nima away, she trashes his poor, abandoned father's apartment!

key: the metal idol

Key is a beautiful soul, a mechanical doll with a singular ambition: to make thirty thousand personal friends. She has a heavy task, and most individuals would cringe from such a task. But Key, Key has an idea. There was this girl on the television, and everybody seemed to like her, even though the girl merely sang and danced badly. Key will win her thirty thousand friends by being a-an "idol", a teenage singer/dancer. But the world is not a beautiful place, and there is a distinct difference between fans and friends.



city hunter: the million-dollar conspiracy

Ryu has finally pissed off the wrong guy, and a female assassin has been offered a million dollars to put an end to him. But the assassin has problems of her own...



new century war chronicle gundam wing

From the oxygen-deprived managerial heights of Bandai the commandment descends, and through the great middle-management warrens and dens of marketing it passes until it's bearer reaches the dank dungeons within which the creative talent is contained; the order is MORE GUNDAM! It is truly amazing that such a crude and degreed process still succeeds in producing anything worthy of note. And yet there it lies: New War Chronicle Gundam Wing is good. Oppressed space colonies seed the oppressing Earth with five terrorists in might war machines to disrupt the hapless Federation.



neon genesis evangelion

Ah, the Seventies, when the stories were fresh, the heroes virtuously violent, and the robots hideously large! Evangelion is like an artifact from a future that never was: a world where Gundam was just another obscure Raiden wannabe, where the Giant Robot still strode the landscape with thunderous gait. Animated with Gainax' customary, consummate craftsmanship, Evangelion is visual, theatrical, and disarmingly simple. The alien Angels have begun to invade the Earth for directly nefarious purposes. Can that be the only thing going on here?

pinessalad dirty pair

This is the myth behind the legend!. Everyone's favorite Lovely Angels (give or take a few off-kilter accents) have been realized most fully in these two fan-dubbed episodes. OK, so the originals lacked cheap-shot libels at Macek, Parker Brothers, and Vibro-massagers - sometimes the reality of a thing is best realized in exaggeration. In Dirty Pair Does Dishes, the 'Pair encounter such deadly obstacles as bible-pounding guard robots, cartoon-producer massacring Terminator clones, and ex-husband Rambo-wannabes. DPDD is best known for its less-than realistic sound effects. In Revenge of BD, Kei and Yuri are compelled to rescue their Mafia-influenced boss, Luigi, from the clutches of a mad escapee from Megazone 23. Revenge of BD is most distinguished by it's inspired use of musical selections (check out the surreal segment set to "Springtime for Hitler"). Both episodes were made using footage from the last two episodes of the Dirty Pair TV series respectively.

lupin III: dead or alive

Hunted by a violent mercenary in the employ of Interpol, Lupin and associates have decided to help Inspector Zenigata get back on Lupin's case by solving the Old Man's current case. This involves stealing a mothballed Soviet nuclear submarine complete with activated ICBMs, and kidnapping a female Russian nuclear expert. Things get yet more complicated when it turns out that the expert's father was a gangster that betrayed, and was killed by, Jigen. Animated in a strangely vital style, Dead or Alive is a distinctive installment in the annual Lupin movie tradition, with a strong visual element making up for certain narrative shortcomings.

robotech III: not necessarily the sentinels

This is *the* Robotech fan parody, and the dub that made Seishun Shitemasu's Robotech III was cobbled together from source material such as Macross 2012: Flashback; Genesis Climber Mosapeda: Love, Live, Alive; and a show so clearly applicable, in it's theme and it's Mikimoto character designs, that one wonders how Carl missed it, Gunbuster. Robotech III follows the further adventures of the space-radiation poisoned Admiral Rick Hunter; his old flame, now mecha pilot Lynn Minmei, and ex-jailbait bright eyes Mint. Told in that old melodramatic, hokey style that we all remember and love.

space battleship yamato

"We're off to outer space, to save Mother Earth!" Oh, isn't it nostalgic... Kodai and the crew on a long journey, in a doomed ship, against black-hearted knaves and vile tyrants. It's Space Battleship Yamato, what can you say? Well, among other things, that this is the first movie, a compilation of the original series for theatres.



godzilla 1954

Unless you've been living under a rock, you've seen this classic film in at least its dubbed form. However, very few outside of Japan have seen the original in its uncut, black-and-white glory. For this special occasion, we are proud to present the original *Gojira* uncut in Japanese with English subtitles. No bad dubbing, no Raymond Burr, and no excuses if you miss this classic.



sleepy eyes of death

He is a mysterious stranger, the samurai with the strange, sleepy eyes. His mother Japanese; his father a foreigner; he has no past, he wants no future. He calls himself Nemuri Kyoshiro, but those who challenge him face... the Sleepy Eyes of Death!



duel to the death

Every ten years, a duel is held in China between the finest Chinese and Japanese martial artists to determine who is the greatest swordsman. As the next match approaches, the candidates are caught in the middle of a battle between the Japanese Ninjas and the Chinese Shaolin monks. Only the duel can stop this conflict and end the bloodshed.

project s

Starring Michelle Yeoh of SUPERCOP fame, a female Chinese police officer is determined to catch a group of bank robbers before they can strike again. Unbeknownst to her, however, her boyfriend is the gang's leader! A good action drama made even better by Yeoh's charismatic performance. Jackie Chan also makes a cameo in the film. Can you find him?

the blade

A young man sheltered from his past finds out the truth about his father's death. Armed with this knowledge, he sets out with his father's broken sword on a journey of vengeance.

lone wolf and cub

This first installment of the famous Baby Cart movies deals primarily with the origins of Itto Ogami's exile with his son Daigoro and the framework for his vengeance against the Yagiuu Shogun. Overall, a good introduction to a dazzlingly violent and stylized series.

burning paradise

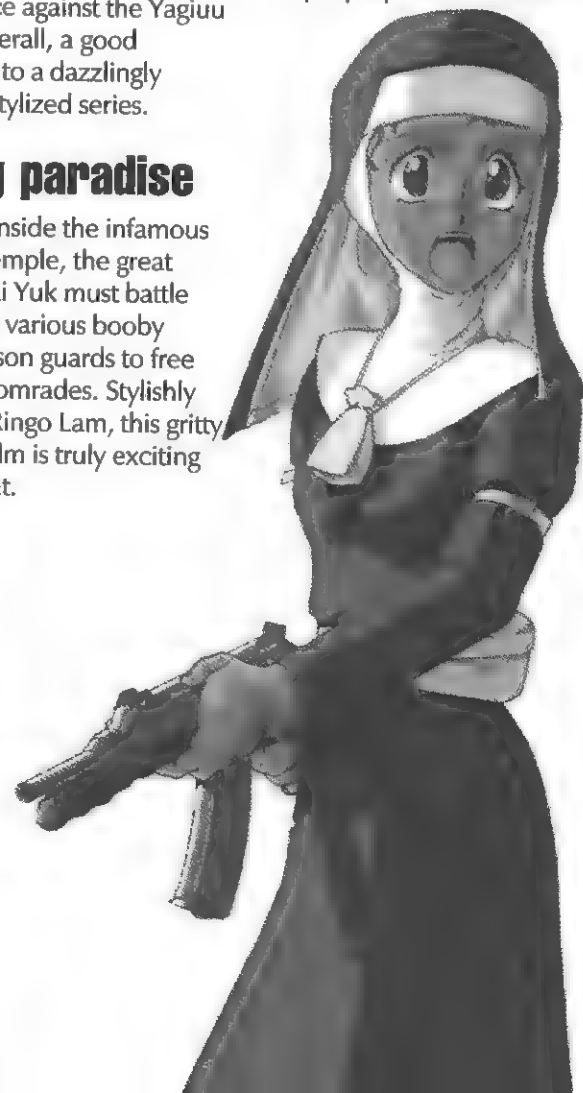
Imprisoned inside the infamous Red Lotus Temple, the great hero Fong Sai Yuk must battle the Temple's various booby traps and prison guards to free his Shaolin comrades. Stylishly directed by Ringo Lam, this gritty martial arts film is truly exciting entertainment.

weather girl (nc-17)

A wickedly funny satire on media and our voyeuristic tendencies, this is based on the popular erotic anime. When our title character gets the idea to flash her panties during the TV weather report, ratings suddenly soar and her report soon becomes the top-rated show in Japan. However, when the former weather girl returns from Europe, the battle of the storm goddesses begins.

yamato takeru

In Yamato, two brothers are born and are destined to be king. Since a twin birth is a bad omen to the throne one of the twins is sentenced to die. However, at the last second, he is saved by a golden Phoenix before being executed. After both sides grow stronger with the help from the Gods, a battle of epic proportions ensues.



fist of legend

A martial arts master is poisoned by Japanese militia who see his academy as an obstacle in their conspiracy to takeover China. His disciple, played by Jet Li, finds out and battles the militia to seek vengeance and regain the honor his master lost in defeat. A great and brutal martial arts film, *Fist of Legend* contains some of the best martial arts sequences recently put to film.



dragons forever

Considered one of Hong Kong's classics, Jackie Chan stars as a lawyer trying to stop a crime boss. With the assist of Sammo Hung and Yuen Biao, Jackie battles the bosses' minions until the incredible martial arts finale - featuring Jackie's classic one-on-one fight with Benny "The Jet" Urquidez.

peace hotel

Chow Yun Fat stars as an innkeeper renowned for harboring anyone entering his establishment. All who enter, whether they're political prisoners or simple thieves, are safe from the outside world as long as they stay within the grounds of the hotel. However, when a mysterious woman comes to the hotel with an entire army following behind her, the peace so carefully maintained is finally broken.



story of ricky

In the near future, all prisons are owned and maintained by private corporations. Ricky, now incarcerated in one of the most brutal prisons, must survive through 4 prison bosses before battling the sadistic warden to regain his freedom. Essentially an ultra-violent video game, this film comes closest to being a live-action version of films like *Fist of the North Star*.

kekko kamen in love (nc-17)

Nothing has ever been able to sway Kekko Kamen from her superheroic duties. However, when a handsome teacher comes to school, our exhibitionist heroine is soon smitten by his presence. Now her duties are truly put to the test. What's a naked superheroine supposed to do?

gamera 2: advent of legion

In this superior sequel to the critically successful 1995 release, Gamera must battle the alien Legion that is trying to reproduce across the world. Written by the writer of the *Patlabor* movies, G2 features first-rate CGI effects, stylish direction and a decent plot. Ok, so it's still rubber monsters, but this proves that a certain lizard isn't the only king of the monsters.

sex and zen (nc-17)

This erotic comedy focuses on a man who plans to seduce every woman he meets. Unfortunately, he soon realizes he's not quite...um...up to the task. He thus arranges for a transplant -- with the poor donor being a horse in the stable next to the surgeon's house! At this point, it only gets more outrageous as the film approaches its truly climatic ending.

jackie chan's city hunter

OK, so it isn't much like the original *Hojo City Hunter*. If you ask me, that's a good thing! It's Jackie calling himself "Ryo", dealing with skateboarding punks, international terrorists, and an out-of-control ocean liner in the days before *Speed 2* gave that whole genre a bad name. Check out the dated *Street Fighter 2* references!

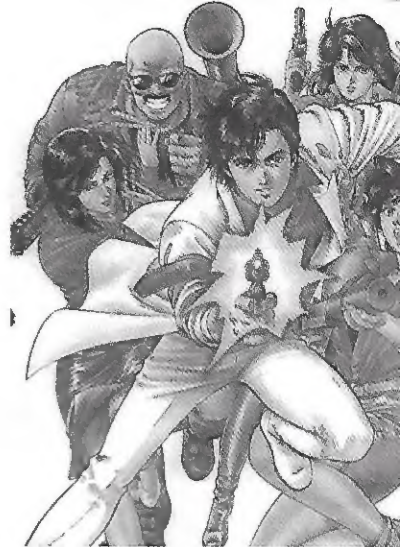
sweet home

A news crew is sent to an abandoned mansion to document the discovery of a reclusive artist's last masterwork. Unknown to them, however, the home harbors a curse for all trespassers. When they accidentally unearth the seal holding the curse, all hell literally breaks loose.



mr. vampire

A priest of Chinese black magic is called to watch over the proceedings of a burial. When he notices that the corpse has not decomposed, he knows something's wrong. Later, the corpse rises up to claim a victim and the hopping vampires are soon popping up. A fun horror-comedy with ghostly love, vampiric haunts and hops, and other strangeness. Considered a classic of Hong Kong cinema and has spawned many imitations.



eastern condor

A classic of Hong Kong cinema, this highly entertaining, action-packed film is an updated variation on the *Dirty Dozen* theme. Sammo Hung and Yuen Biao star as 2 men leading a core team of ex-convicts in a covert mission against the Viet Cong in the jungles of Vietnam.

godzilla vs. destroyer

The end to the current series first started in *Godzilla 1984*. *Godzilla*, suffering from an internal nuclear meltdown, is dying. As Japan faces its greatest crisis yet, a second crisis emerges. *Destroyer*, born from the *Oxygen Destroyer* weapon that originally defeated *Godzilla*, is on a collision course with *Godzilla* and the now-grown *Godzilla Junior*.

autographs

at 77 / TENCH / FOREVER

Ayaka



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